



SHOT TALK



National Infant Immunization Week, April 13-19, 2003

Now in its tenth year, National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) focuses attention on the tremendous benefits of immunizations to the health of children. NIIW is an annual observance that highlights the importance of timely immunization. Immunization is one of the most effective ways of protecting against disease. NIIW is a time to focus greater attention on our achievements and on the work we do throughout the year to raise coverage levels. We celebrate with our partners the accomplishments that would not have occurred without successful collaboration. We also take the time to revitalize joint efforts to remind parents, caregivers, health care providers, and others of the need to take appropriate steps to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases and give them a healthy start to life.

The goals of NIIW are many:

- Make parents and caregivers aware of the need to protect their children from birth against 11 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Encourage better communication between parents, caregivers, and their health care provider.
- Inform parents and caregivers of the need to follow through on childhood immunization recommendations by making and keeping needed appointments.
- Increase parents' and caregivers' awareness of, and access to, resources, such as toll-free 800 numbers, to help them locate facilities that offer free or low-cost

immunizations for their children, especially if they do not have insurance or a health care provider.

Since NIIW was established in 1993, dedicated people across the country have joined forces with state and local health departments, health care providers, and other partners to deliver the immunization message. This year's message "Join the Immunization Fiesta" will be delivered at a unique event as San Antonio prepares to celebrate "Fiesta 2003".

In celebration of National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), a special Vaccines for Children Provider Appreciation Breakfast will take place on Thursday, April 17th from 7:30 am - 10:00 am at the Omni Colonnade in San Antonio. **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers are encouraged to watch their mailboxes during the first week of April for their personal invitation to the 6th Annual VFC Provider Appreciation Breakfast.**

The breakfast will bring together national and local partners to address a broad range of immunization issues. The highlight of this breakfast will be the guest speakers. Dr. Lance E. Rodewald, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will provide information on "hot topics" associated with immunizations from a national perspective. Additionally, Dr.

Fernando A. Guerra, Director of Health for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will deliver a local perspective and Casey Blass, Acting Chief, Bureau of Immunization & Pharmacy Support, Texas Department of Health will provide a legislative update.

The SAMHD hopes to have over 300 attendees. Among those attending will be pediatricians, doctors, lawmakers, and other local and state representatives.



Mayor Pro Tem Enrique Barrera Proclaims NIIW

SAN ANTONIO, April 13-19, 2003 - the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is gearing up to promote and celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). To call attention to this nationwide immunization initiative, a variety of events are planned to take place throughout San Antonio. On April 3rd Mayor Ed Garza issued a proclamation to officially designate April 13 through April 19 as Infant Immunization Week in San Antonio.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>NIIW In It's 10th Year</i>	<i>Page 1</i>	<i>Off to a Good Start in 2003</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Vaccine Supply Update</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Check Your VISs!</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>SARS Information</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Combination Vaccine Study</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Website Address Change</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>SAMHD and TDH Contacts</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>VFC Manuals & Toolkits</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Happy Retirement!</i>	<i>Page 4</i>

Vaccine Supply Updates

At the February Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, it was reported that the supplies of DTaP, Td, MMR and Varicella are sufficient for a return to the full dosing schedule. PCV-7 supply remains sporadic and vaccine delivery must continue to be prioritized to high-risk children. It is hoped PCV-7 supply will be able to meet national needs possibly as early as this summer. While there are currently minor delays of HIB vaccine from Merck, there is sufficient supply from both manufacturers of the vaccine to meet current need.

The VFC staff will continue providing updates on vaccine shortages as they become available. For up-to-date information on the nationwide vaccine shortages or supply issues visit www.cdc.gov/nip.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

The SAMHD has developed the following guidance regarding SARS questions from citizens.

There are approximately 400 cases of suspected SARS in the world being investigated and of those about 40 are in the United States. It is **very** unlikely that patients or callers in the Bexar County have been in contact with someone who may have this condition. Current information about SARS indicates the spread of the illness is through respiratory droplets or fluids in direct or close (household) contact situations. The Texas Department of Health (TDH) along with local health departments is carefully investigating all potential Texas cases. They also are interviewing all people who traveled with a suspect case. So far, there is no indication there has been any secondary transmission to another person in the US.

As of April 10, there are five people in Texas who are being investigated as suspected SARS

cases. They are in Collin County and the Harris County area.

Telephone calls or other contact from concerned citizens inquiring about their risk of either having SARS or acquiring it in Texas are asked the following questions to **screen for illness**:

Do they have a respiratory illness that *has not been diagnosed* and began after Feb 1, 2003?

Do they have a documented (taken by thermometer) fever of >100.4 °F (>38° C)?

Do they have a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, hypoxia (not getting enough oxygen to the blood) or an X-ray that indicates they have pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome?

AND

Have they traveled to an area of the world where other cases have been found (currently Hanoi, Hong Kong, Singapore, or the Quangdong province of China)?

OR

Have they been a close contact (household member usually) of someone who is sick or been sick with a respiratory illness and a history of travel to one of the above locations?

If the answers to these questions are yes they should be referred to a physician to be evaluated for SARS. Physicians with questions regarding SARS please contact Roger Sanchez, SAMHD Epidemiologist, at 207-8876. Information on SARS is online at CDC's website or <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>



The official website address for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health changed several months ago to **www.sanantonio.gov/health**. Since then the old address (**www.samhd.org**) automatically sent users to the new address.

Unfortunately that link no longer sends users to the SAMHD website. It now send users to an adult orientated site. The SAMHD apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused. Make sure and change your bookmark or favorites to **www.sanantonio.gov/health** in order to continue accessing the San Antonio Immunization Registry and immunization information. If you are experiencing problems accessing the SAMHD website please contact Walter Widish at 207-8792.

VFC Providers Complete Annual Update

VFC providers received VFC program enrollment and profile forms in mid February for updating. These forms were due back by March 1, 2003. The majority of enrolled providers completed this program requirement by the deadline. Providers that have not submitted their updated forms are urged to do so ASAP. Failure to submit these updated forms can disrupt vaccine delivery. For assistance in completing this program requirement contact Jorge Reyes at 207-2862.

VFC Operations Manual and Toolkits

The VFC Program recently updated the VFC manual and distribution is now ongoing. The VFC manual is designed to be a fingertip immunization reference tool for VFC providers. Thanks to a collaborative effort between SAMHD and the Texas Department of Health VFC providers are also receiving provider toolkits from the TVFC Program. The toolkit is also a very valuable immunization tool and contains educational videos that cover vaccine administration techniques and proper vaccine handling and storage. The toolkit also contains "The Pink Book" from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, considered the immunization bible, on compact disk.

The VFC and QA/AFIX staffs have delivered the manual and toolkit

to approximately a third of enrolled VFC providers and distribution should be completed by April 15, 2003. If you are an enrolled provider and have not received your manual and toolkit by April 21, 2003 please call Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

Welcome VFC's Newest Partners

Since the September 2002 edition of *Shot Talk* the following health care professionals have joined the VFC Program. The VFC staff would like to welcome; Dr. Lucina Trevino, Medical Care Clinic at McAuliffe, Dr. John Alukal, Dr. Jorge Estrada, Trinity Care Center, Pearsall Park Community Center Clinic, Dr. Raul Gaona, Dr. Robert Lira, Dr. Lindsay Irvin and Kellum Pediatric Clinic.

Welcome Aboard!

QA/AFIX...Off to a Great Start in 2003

The QA/AFIX Team wrapped up 2002 by meeting and exceeding the program's goals and expectations for 2002. Well it's now 2003, and the QA/AFIX Team is already off to a productive start, conducting site visits to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to ACIP guidelines, as well as adhering to VFC Program Guidelines.

The QA/AFIX Team spent most of January in private VFC provider offices. In February, the team focused on SAMHD locations assessing 9 Nursing Clinics, 8 Immunization Clinics, and 13 WIC facilities.

We would like to thank the following providers and their staff for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process since our last newsletter:

Westlakes Primary Care, P.A., Office of Dr. Michael Dorsa, Jefferson Family Practice, Dr. K. Job Chacko, Office of Dr. Conner Chase, Health Texas Medical Group-Val Verde, Dr. Francisco Barrera, Health Texas Medical Group, San Antonio Pediatrics Associates, Shavano

Family Practice, San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Walzem, Dr. Nandakumar, DBA Family Clinics of San Antonio, San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Houston, Dr. Romeu, San Antonio Institute of Medicine, Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Center DBA-Ella Austin Health Center, Clinica Del Norte Pediatrics, Christus Santa Rosa Family Health Center, The Family Doctor Office, Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center, Gonzaba Northwest, Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic, Dr. G. I. Rocha, Dr. Dante P. Escalante, Southeast Baptist Hospital, South Park Medical Care Center, Dr. John S. Garcia, Dr. Ruben Tenorio, Hill Country Family Medical Center-S.A., South Alamo Medical Group, University Physician's Group-Family Practice, Howard Family Practice, University Health Center-Children's Clinic, and Bishop Ernest T. Dixon Clinic.

The following SAMHD clinics also recently participated in the QA/AFIX process: Southwest Branch Clinic-(Nursing & WIC), Marbach Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Highway 90 Clinic-(Nursing), South Flores Clinic-(Nursing & WIC), Zarzamora Clinic-(Nursing & WIC), West End MultiService Center-(Nursing), Ingram/Callaghan Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Pecan Valley Clinic-(Nursing & WIC), Salinas Clinic-(Nursing & WIC), Dorie Miller Clinic-(WIC), Eastside Branch Clinic-(Nursing), Main Immunization Center-(Immunizations), Thousand Oaks Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Rittiman Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Kenwood Clinic-(Nursing), Fredericksburg Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Buena Vista Clinic-(Immunizations & WIC), Southeast Clinic-(WIC), and the Adolescent/Adult Immunization Program.

Congratulations are in order for the following providers that achieved impressive immunization coverage rates over the past quarter: South Alamo Medical Group (89%), Pecan Valley Clinic-Nursing-SAMHD (89%), West End Multi-Service Center-Nursing-SAMHD (87%), Dr. K. Job Chacko (87%), Zarzamora Clinic-Nursing-SAMHD (85%), Highway 90 Clinic-Nursing-SAMHD (83%), and San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Walzem (81%). These facilities worked to ensure that over

80% of the children seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, and 3 Hep B by 24 months of age. These VFC providers are commended for their dedicated efforts to improve the immunization coverage levels within their practices. **JOB WELL DONE!! Keep up the great work!!**

VFC providers are encouraged to use the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) to simplify keeping patient's immunization status up-to-date. The software is free of charge and the QA/AFIX staff is available to assist with training and installation. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please contact Kenya Wilson at 207-3974.

It's a Federal Law!!

Just as a reminder it is a Federal Law to provide your patients with the most current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). The Pneumococcal Conjugate VIS and the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella VIS have recently been updated. Please make sure you have the most current versions and dispose of any outdated versions. The new dates are as follows: Pneumococcal Conjugate in English, Spanish and Turkish 9/30/2002, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella in English, Spanish and Turkish 1/15/2003. The remaining VISs are current and have not changed in the past 12 months. The VFC staff has supplied your office with camera-ready master copies of the updated VISs for reproduction. However, field staff has reported that many providers have run out of the master sets provided by the VFC Program and are requesting replacements. To download copies of any of the VIS you can access the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) website at www.immunize.org/vis. To order VISs in bulk call Texas Department of Health (TDH) at 1-800-252-9152. When using VISs from TDH please make sure to disregard the TDH consent form that is attached to the VIS and use only the consent form

supplied by the SAMHD VFC program. If you have any questions please call Bridget Gonzales at 207-2863.

Vaccine Study Continues

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) continues a vaccine trial study on Pentacel™, a combination vaccine containing DTaP, Hib, and IPV antigens made by Aventis Pasteur, Inc. The objective of the study is to assess whether three batches of Pentacel™ produced at a new manufacturing facility in Canada are consistent and equivalent to the batch of Pentacel™ produced at the current facility. Pentacel™ was licensed and has been in use in Canada since 1997.

As mentioned in the January issue of *Shot Talk* the advantage of the Pentacel™ vaccine is that children receive three vaccinations instead of the usual five while receiving the same protection. The study consists of seven visits over a twenty-one month period.

Eligible clients should be 6-12 weeks of age and in good health. Children participating in SAMHD vaccine studies receive vaccines free of charge and parents are compensated for their time and travel. For more information, call Brenda Lemke at 207-6916.

SAMHD, TDH, and TX Health Steps References

VFC staff receives frequent requests from providers for information for other programs within the SAMHD, the Texas Department of Health (TDH), and Texas Health Steps (THSteps). Here are some helpful reference numbers for the SAMHD, TDH, and THSteps.

SAMHD Contact Numbers

Animal Bite Reports – 207-6667
Birth and Death Records – 207-8815
Dental Information – 207-6505
Family Planning Appointments – 207-8840
Food and Environmental Health – 207-8853

HIV/AIDS – 207-2437
Immunization Clinics – 207-8750
Laboratory 207 – 8820
Reportable Diseases – 207-2085
School Nurse Liaison – 924-9031
Sexually Transmitted Diseases – 207-8830
TB Control/Chest Clinic – 207-8824
Women Infant and Children Program (WIC Program) – 225-0213

TDH/Texas Health Steps

THSteps Claims Inquiries – 1-800-757-5691
THSteps Hearing Evaluation – (512)-458-7724
TDH Bureau of Laboratories
Technical Questions – (512)-458-7680
Supplies – (512)-458-7661
Test Results – (512)-7578
Texas Medicaid Service Delivery Guide – (512)-458-7745
Shot Records Cardstock in bulk – 1-800-252-9152
Vaccine Information Statements ordering, Literature Dept. – 1-800-252-9152

Clinical Services Supervisor Retires

After 25 years of service with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Lynn Seeman, Immunization Division Clinical Services Supervisor, has retired from the City of San Antonio. Ms. Seeman was not only the “Immunization Expert” for the Health Department, but for the entire community and her experience with childhood and adult immunization policies and issues will be missed. On behalf of the Division and Department, we would like to thank her for dedicated service and outstanding performance in the best tradition of public health.



SAMHD Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes have occurred at the SAMHD Immunization Division: Ms. Linda Lopez, RN will be the acting Immunization Division Clinical Services Supervisor and can be reached at 207-8804. Mr. Tom

Shot Talk

Gonzalez will be the acting Immunization Division Perinatal Hepatitis B and Rubella Susceptible Coordinator and can be reached at 207-8877. If you or any of your counterparts need any information or assistance from one of these programs, please do not hesitate giving them a call. If you have additional concerns or issues and need further assistance, please contact Mark Ritter, Immunization Division Manager at 207-8794.

Upcoming City Holidays

Fiesta San Jacinto Day

April 25, 2002

Memorial Day

May 26, 2002

Immunization Division Contacts

Program Operations:	
Mark Ritter, MHA	207-8794
Public Health Advisor:	
Thomas Finke, MPA	207-2870
Clinical Operations:	
Linda B. Lopez, RN	207-8804
Hepatitis Program/Surveillance:	
Tom Gonzalez, MLT	207-2088
VFC Coordinator:	
Vivian B. Flores	207-2868
Vaccine Management:	
Anthony Johnson	921-1178
Infant Action Plan/WIC Linkage:	
Pamela Williams	207-2869
Vaccine Studies:	
Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-2859
Registry/Info. Systems:	
Walter Widish, Ms	207-8792
Adolescent/Adult Program:	
Rita Salazar	207-8877
QA/AFIX Program:	
Kenya Wilson	207-3974
Foreign Travel:	
Rebecca Prieto, RN	207-8872

WWW. Immunization Reference Sites

SAMHD: www.santantoio.gov/health

TDH: www.tdh.state.tx.us

CDC: www.cdc.gov

IAC: www.immunize.org

